



THE BLUE LIGHT

JULY 2007

THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
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Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Assistant Director

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ABI Division

MAJOR HUGH MCCALL
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR ROBERT GOODNER
Protective Services

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Service Division

CAPTAIN KEVIN M. CLAUNCH
Acting Chief,
Administrative Division

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Happy, Safe Independence Day State Troopers Target Impaired Drivers over Holiday

Troopers will be out in force during the Fourth of July, enforcing all traffic laws, assisting motorists, and serving as visible reminders to drive safely, obey speed limits, buckle up, and refrain from drinking and driving.

Troopers especially will target impaired drivers during the July 4th holiday period, said Col. J. Christopher Murphy. In addition to routine patrols, troopers will conduct a variety of special enforcement details, including checkpoints, saturation and line patrols. They also will conduct LIDAR speed enforcement details, operating the laser speed detection devices from stationary vantage points.

Troopers will concentrate patrols on designated C.A.R.E. highways – interstates and other popular beach and vacation routes. Operation C.A.R.E., Combined Accident Reduction Effort, is a joint endeavor by state police nationwide to promote traffic safety during the holiday period through intensive enforcement and safety awareness activity.

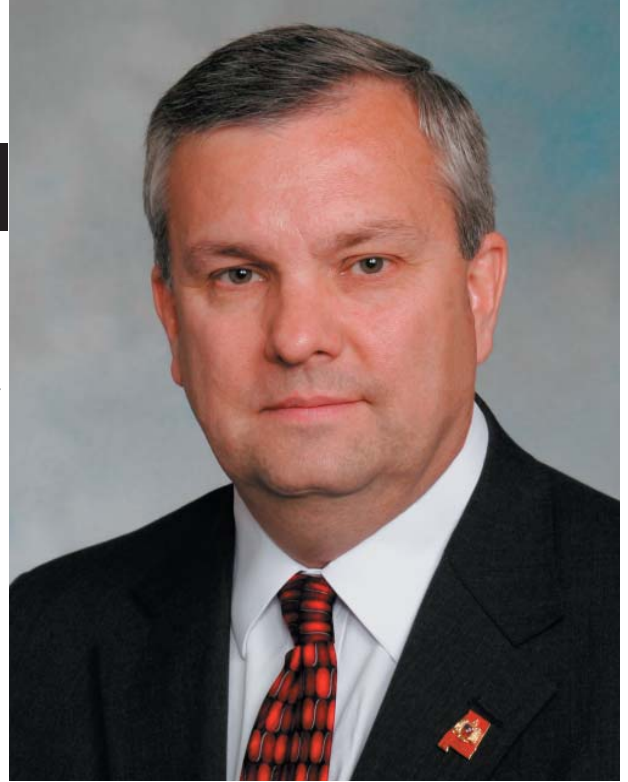
“By removing impaired and other dangerous drivers from the roadways, troopers have a direct impact on protecting the safety of Alabamians and visitors to our state,” said Murphy. He said overtime grants administered through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and the Alabama Department of Transportation would support increased patrols during the holiday.

Murphy urged motorists to join troopers in making safety a priority during the holiday period, and he asked them to buckle up on each and every trip. “It can’t be said often enough: Safety belts save lives.” He also reminded motorists they can become valuable partners in the safety effort by reporting drunken drivers and other highway emergencies to state troopers by dialing *HP on their cell phones.

The Department of Public Safety estimates that seven people will die in traffic crashes in Alabama during the 30-hour Independence Day period beginning at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 3, and ending at midnight Wednesday, July 4. Last year there were 22 fatalities during an extended 102-hour Fourth of July holiday period. At least six of those deaths were alcohol related, and 10 of the crash victims were not using a safety belt.

The Colonel's Corner

Col. J. Chistopher Murphy, Director



In an effort to better communicate what is going on here in Headquarters, I have instituted several different avenues for communication. I have included Public Information in staff meetings and instructed that PIO summarize the meetings and send the summaries out globally. I also have instituted “Que with the Colonel,” where I have lunch once a month with six to 10 employees from a number of divisions and locations throughout the state. We all go “Dutch treat” and just talk. It is an opportunity for me to get to know employees, for them to get to know each other, and for them to get to know me. I tell them they can ask any question and they do not have to follow chain of command. I ask them to speak on any one aspect of this department that they feel is really good, and then I ask them to complete the sentence, “If I were the colonel, I would....” I qualify the lunch with the understanding that I’m not going to change policy based on this lunch alone. I do not report back to their division chiefs, but if I see a pattern of issues, I will subtly address it. I have enjoyed these lunches and hope those who have attended have benefited. If you are interested in attending, call Andrea. In addition, I make use of *The Blue Light* to bring issues to light, and I’ve adopted this new column, The Colonel’s Corner, as one more way I will try to facilitate communication. Either the lieutenant colonel or I will try to submit an article of interest each edition.

The hottest topic this issue is the Legislature. While many bills were not passed and internal disagreements escalated at times, several significant things happened that concern DPS.

I have designated two primary contacts that support the interests of DPS in the Legislature. Capt. Jerry Conner, in addition to his ABI duties, is our legislative liaison. This is a new role for him, and he did a superb job during the regular session. He worked tirelessly to get to know our representatives and senators, put together our legislative agenda with command staff input, followed bills of interest, and formed relationships with key individuals. I received many positive comments about his work. Also, former trooper and Protective Services agent André Reid is a paid consultant for DPS, and his primary duties revolve around the Legislature. He proved to be invaluable to me during the regular session. He introduced me to many legislators and got me on the agenda to address the Republican Caucus, the Democratic Caucus, and the Black Caucus. He also gave me great insight into the process and personalities of the Alabama Legislature. After 21 years with the U.S. Secret Service, I know how important the Legislature is to our day-to-day work. And I am convinced it is about relationships. That is why the lieutenant colonel and I spent a good bit of time at the State House or at receptions for legislators. If our legislators know me and the lieutenant colonel, then we have a better chance to address issues before they become problems.

We also made the decision that if a picture is worth a thousand words, then a field trip to the academy in Selma would be worth a million! We convinced 18 senators and representatives to get on a bus and drive down to Craig Field. I got to discuss the department, our mission, our budget, and our vision on the way down.

Then the legislators actually ate at our cafeteria and toured the entire campus. They were impressed ... maybe

The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED)

overwhelmed is a better word. Either way, it made a lasting impression, and they went back and talked about how bad it was. This translated into our ability to get on the education bond issue and receive \$24.5 million to partner with the Department of Corrections and Wallace State Community College to build a new academy on the campus of Wallace State in Selma. This is a huge accomplishment and took a great deal of work. And by the way, if you troopers stop a legislator, before you tell him or her to have a nice day, thank them for their support of this project. The magnitude of the project calls for full-time work, and I have transferred Sgt. Deena Pregno from the Protective Services Division to the Office of the Director and made her project manager for the building of our academy. DPS is the lead agency on the project, which will last two or more years.

During the budget revision process, Gov. Riley gave back to our budget \$5 million that had been suggested for other uses. The governor said he wanted DPS to hire new troopers and directed that the money be restored. For this — and for all his support of Public Safety — I am very grateful. This budget then went over to the House, where I worked with Rep. John Knight, who is chairman of the Government Appropriations Committee. Chairman Knight was very supportive of DPS, partly due to a new and positive personal relationship that I think we now have. He was so supportive that I did not even testify at the budget hearings. He did it for us! And other Cabinet members and agency heads have asked how we did so well. We were not cut from the budget the governor sent over, and I am extremely grateful to Chairman Knight and others on his committee, as well as the entire Legislature.

This does not mean DPS is flush, but we can hire new troopers, a few driver license examiners, and buy new cars. I negotiated with ALDOT Director Joe McInnis for a transfer of \$1 million from his budget to ours to purchase 40 more patrol cars and to equip them. This will keep pace with the new hires from the current accelerated class and another class in October.

We did not do very well with a bill that was strongly backed by ALFA, the Cattlemen's Association, the poultry industry and other agricultural interests. This bill has the potential to "gut" our Motor Carrier Safety Unit and eliminate funding from the federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. We fought hard to hold back the tide of support, but were swept away by this wave of misguided support. It passed with only three nays in the House and none in the Senate. We have been working closely with the Governor's Office and others, and Executive Counsel Michael Robinson and Lt. Bobby Powell have been outstanding in this effort. The situation is complicated, but for now, we have not lost funding or authorization to run our Motor Carrier unit. We are working toward an administrative solution, and Gov. Riley has publicly stated he is willing to call a special session to alter this law to keep us compliant with federal regulations. I have directed the MCSU to cease enforcement of

The Colonel's Corner continues on Page 9



Col. Murphy Thanks Sen. Singleton

On June 27, Col. J. Christopher Murphy presented Sen. Bobby Singleton with a certificate of appreciation for diligently working within the state Legislature, promoting DPS's mission in service to the state, and working to preserve and extend our ability to effectively serve and protect the citizens of Alabama.



ROUTINE TRAFFIC STOP RESULTS IN TRAFFICKING ARRESTS

When Tpr. William Barnes pulled over a white Ford Expedition for speeding on Interstate 65 north near the 168 mile marker, he never suspected that this routine traffic stop would net drug trafficking arrests and a seizure of approximately \$800,000 of cocaine.

The driver and two passengers, all of Texas, provided Barnes conflicting stories and itineraries regarding their trek from Texas. The trooper also noted a marked nervousness.

Tpr. David Colston arrived at the scene to provide assistance, and Barnes received the driver's consent to search the vehicle. After noticing fresh tooling marks on the wheels, the troopers conducted an "echo" test on the axles of the trailer being towed by the SUV. The result was a peculiar thud, compared to the characteristic ringing sound normally associated with the test. After drug dogs Fire and Luca alerted to the odor of narcotics at the trailer wheels, the troopers discovered the axles were stuffed with cocaine.

Cloth straps surrounding the packages inside the axle were used in removing the cocaine from inside the trailer axle. Sixteen half-kilo packages of cocaine were removed.

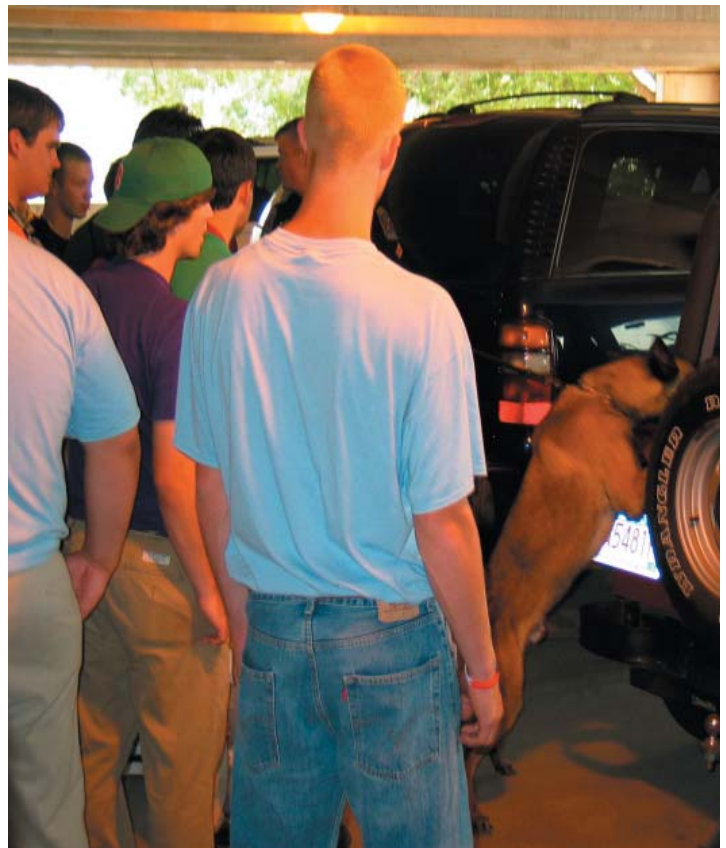
Charged with cocaine trafficking were the driver, Azucena Garcia, 37, and a passenger, Juan Antonio Wbaldo, 48. They, along with a 17-year-old second passenger, were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration.



Boys' State Takes Field Trip to DPS Headquarters

On Friday, June 15, approximately 40 incoming high school seniors from the Boys' State Civics Camp in Tuscaloosa visited DPS Headquarters to learn about what it is like to be an Alabama state trooper. The group talked with Col. J. Christopher Murphy and toured his office, toured both the Highway Patrol and ABI divisions, and witnessed a drug dog demonstration. All of the boys in attendance have expressed already an interest in law enforcement, so it is exciting to know that we may have future state troopers among those in attendance.

Special thanks to Maj. Roscoe Howell, Lt. Karl Wade, Lt. Timothy Pullin, Tpr. John Reese, Dorris Teague, and everyone else who made this field trip a success!



People You Know!



New Employees

Kimberly Adams	5/16/07	Clerical Aide	DL/Hearing Unit
Carlynn Andrews	5/21/07	Clerical Aide	ADM/Personnel Unit
Rebekah Arrington	6/01/07	Clerical Aide	ABI/Identification Unit
Sye Carter Sr.	6/01/07	Veh Rep Body & Fender Supv	SER/Fleet Maint
Sheila Harris Champion	5/16/07	PCO I	HP/Mobile
Kelvin Duncan	6/01/07	Fingerprint Classifier I	ABI/Identification Unit
Lenida Fernandez	5/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Huntsville
Julie Fuller	6/01/07	Clerical Aide	ABI/CIC
Ronald Hayden	5/16/07	Corporal	ABI/Mobile
Kristin Huffman	5/16/07	ASA I	HP/Birmingham
Virginia Jackson	5/16/07	PCO I	HP/Selma
Shea Jackson	6/01/07	ASA I	ABI/Identification Unit
Amanda Kent	6/01/07	Clerical Aide	ABI/Identification Unit
Jessica Lewis	6/01/07	Clerical Aide	DL/Opelika
Jacqueline Lindstrom	6/01/07	Clerical Aide	ABI/Identification Unit
Kyle Moore	5/16/07	Clerical Aide	DL/Safety Responsibility
Michael Mosely	6/01/07	Capitol Police Officer	PS/Capitol Police
Michelle Moses	6/01/07	ASA I	ABI/Identification Unit
Christopher Mullins	5/21/07	Clerical Aide	HP/Motor Carrier Safety
Lucile Mushatt	6/01/07	Clerical Aide	DL/Safety Responsibility
Monique Pace	6/01/07	Clerical Aide	DL/DL Services
Steven Payne	6/01/07	Fingerprint Classifier I	ABI/Identification Unit
Nikki Price	6/01/07	ASA I	ABI/Identification Unit
Ronke Renfroe	5/16/07	Clerical Aide	DL/Safety Responsibility
Shirley Roper	6/01/07	Clerical Aide	ABI/Identification Unit
Cathy Roney	5/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Evergreen
Stella Sevy-Moss	5/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Jacksonville
Katelyn Shavers	6/01/07	Clerical Aide	ADM/Director's Office
Jennifer Shaw	5/16/07	Account Clerk	ADM/Financial Services
Jennifer Shell	6/01/07	ASA I	ABI/Identification Unit
Erin Stinson	6/01/07	Clerical Aide	ABI/Identification Unit
Angela Thompson	6/01/07	ASA I	ABI/Identification Unit
Angela Watson	6/01/07	Capitol Police Officer	PS/Capitol Police
Kristy Watson	5/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Dothan

Promotions

Debra Andrews	6/01/07	DL Specialist	DL/Medical Unit
Janet Baggett-Clausen	6/01/07	ASA II	ABI/Administrative Unit
Richard Barga	5/16/07	PCO III	HP/Montgomery
Susan Chandler	5/16/07	PCO III	HP/Mobile
Rachel Fields	6/01/07	ASA III	ADM/Assistant Director's Office
Kim Frazier	5/16/07	ASA II	DL/Safety Responsibility
Dianna Golden	5/16/07	PCO III	HP/Dothan

People You Know!



Promotions (continued)

Robert Goodner	6/01/07	Major	PS/Division Chief
Priscilla Jones	6/01/07	DL Specialist	DL/Reinstatement Unit
Elizabeth White	5/16/07	PCO III	HP/Decatur
Judy Williams	5/16/07	PCO III	HP/Evergreen
Mary Wynn-Lyles	5/16/07	PCO III	HP/Opelika

Transfers

Cynthia Ash	6/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Jefferson County
Harriet Freeman	5/16/07	Account Clerk	ADM/Purchasing
James Hendrix	5/16/07	Trooper	HP/Montgomery
Roscoe Howell	6/01/07	Major	HP/Division Chief
Maurice Keller	6/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/St. Clair County
Amy Kowal	5/16/07	PCO II	HP/Decatur
Deena Pregno	6/01/07	Sergeant	ADM/Assistant Director's Office
Timothy Rector	6/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Gadsden Post
Anna Sledge	6/01/07	Investigative Technician II	DL/Fraud Unit
Rosalind Tucker	6/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham Examining

Resignations

Lisa Baker	6/15/07	ASA I	DL/Records Management
Rhonda McCrummen	5/28/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Dothan
Jason McHenry	6/15/07	Trooper	HP/Mobile
Carl Sauders	6/08/07	Warehouse Worker	SER/Supply

Retirements

Ken Hallford	5/31/07	Major	PS/Division Chief
Bobbie Meeks	5/31/07	PCO II	HP/Mobile
Patricia Pritchett	5/31/07	DL Supervisor	DL/Accident Records
Cary Sutton	5/31/07	Major	HP/Division Chief
Jack Waller	5/31/07	Lieutenant	DL/Dothan
Willie White	5/31/07	Trooper	HP/Dothan



Major Goodner Visits with Chief Superintendent of Rwanda Police

Emmanuel Gakwaya, Region Police commander and chief superintendent of Rwanda police, visited DPS Headquarters June 19 on official business to discuss matters concerning the operations of Protective Services. Rwanda police are fashioning a similar program to protect their government officials. Maj. Robert Goodner presented Gakwaya with several tokens of appreciation and mementos of his visit to Alabama DPS Headquarters.

Crash Prompts Discussion on 'Move-Over' Law

As horrific as Tpr. Brian Manley's crash was on June 5, a lot of good may come from the incident, as it prompted a much-needed discussion among the media to promote awareness for Alabama's "move-over" law.

Manley's crash occurred shortly after pulling over a driver on U.S. 80 near Selma. Stopped on the side of the road, Manley was about to get out of his car when it was slammed in the rear by a pickup truck. Manley, thankfully, survived the crash and was airlifted to Baptist Hospital in Montgomery.

In the days and weeks following the crash, several media outlets began talking about the law at length for the first time since "move-over" went on the books July 1, 2006.

WSFA spoke with Sgt. Jack Clark concerning the law, and also interviewed Lt. Tim Pullin on air, encouraging Alabama drivers to move into the far lane whenever they see blue lights on the side of the road.



Tpr. Brian Manley's car, following the crash on June 5

MARIJUANA ERADICATION STATISTICS

	JUNE	YEAR TO DATE
PLANTS BURNED	10,656	16,554
ESTIMATED STREET VALUE	\$21,312,000	\$33,180,000
ARRESTS MADE	12	26

The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

the intrastate laws in this area until we can resolve this issue. I am very optimistic that we will be successful, although there is much work ahead of us.

All told, I feel that DPS fared well during this last legislative session. Long term, I believe we are fostering these relationships and that, for the most part, the Legislature has a positive, invigorated and optimistic opinion of the department. I have had the opportunity to have detailed conversations with Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom, Speaker Seth Hammett, Chairman Knight, and President Pro Tem Hinton Mitchem. I have had good meetings with both majority and minority leaders in the House and Senate, and there has been positive interaction at all levels. I am very thankful to Lt. Col. Bubba Bingham, Executive Counsel Robinson, Capt. Conner, Andre Reid and all who have assisted me in these successes. I also would be remiss in not expressing my appreciation to the Alabama State Trooper Association. While the ASTA represents the troopers and not the department, its president, Capt. Neil Tew, and lobbyist have met with me several times and have been most helpful; and the association's interests have been parallel to the department's interests. It is healthy to keep these separate, but I am very grateful for the attitude and relationship of this association.

State Trooper Recovers Cash in Routine Stop

Tpr. Tony Ross of the Jacksonville Post made a routine traffic stop for speeding on Alabama Hwy 9 June 16. After the driver of the vehicle gave Ross two different false names, \$14,409 was recovered from his person and his vehicle.

Cpl. Jeremy Lett, Agent Wayne Green, and K-9 Jacko responded to the scene to provide assistance. Along with traces of narcotics, the cash was recovered from the vehicle after probable cause had been reached. The subject continued to give a false name even after being taken into custody.

The subject was placed in the Calhoun County Jail charged with possession of controlled substance, speeding, and driving without a license.



2007 APOST-certified Class Underway

A 12-week APOST-certified class recently got underway with 19 troopers in training. *The Blue Light* was fortunate enough to briefly talk with two of them about their history in law enforcement, and what brings them to DPS.

Steve McWaters had been with the Alexander City Police Department for 12 years, and is also a drill sergeant with the Army Reserve. "I see the Department of Public Safety

as the premier law enforcement agency in the state of Alabama, and that is why I want to be a state trooper," said McWaters. He also has family with DPS. His brother has been with the department since 1996, and is currently in ABI. His mother retired as a PCO.

Dexter Emmanuel also has been in law enforcement for 12 years. Emmanuel previously served as a Prattville police officer, as a sergeant, and cited wanting more of a challenge in his career as a reason for wanting to join DPS. Emmanuel has an extensive corrections background, as well as experience in the Marine Corps.

Troopers Defend the Peace at KKK Rally in Tuscumbia



The Ku Klux Klan appeared in Tuscumbia on Saturday, May 26, to protest illegal immigration. Troopers were busy keeping the opposing groups separate and the protest relatively peaceful.

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

Contributors:

Capt. Harry Nail, DL

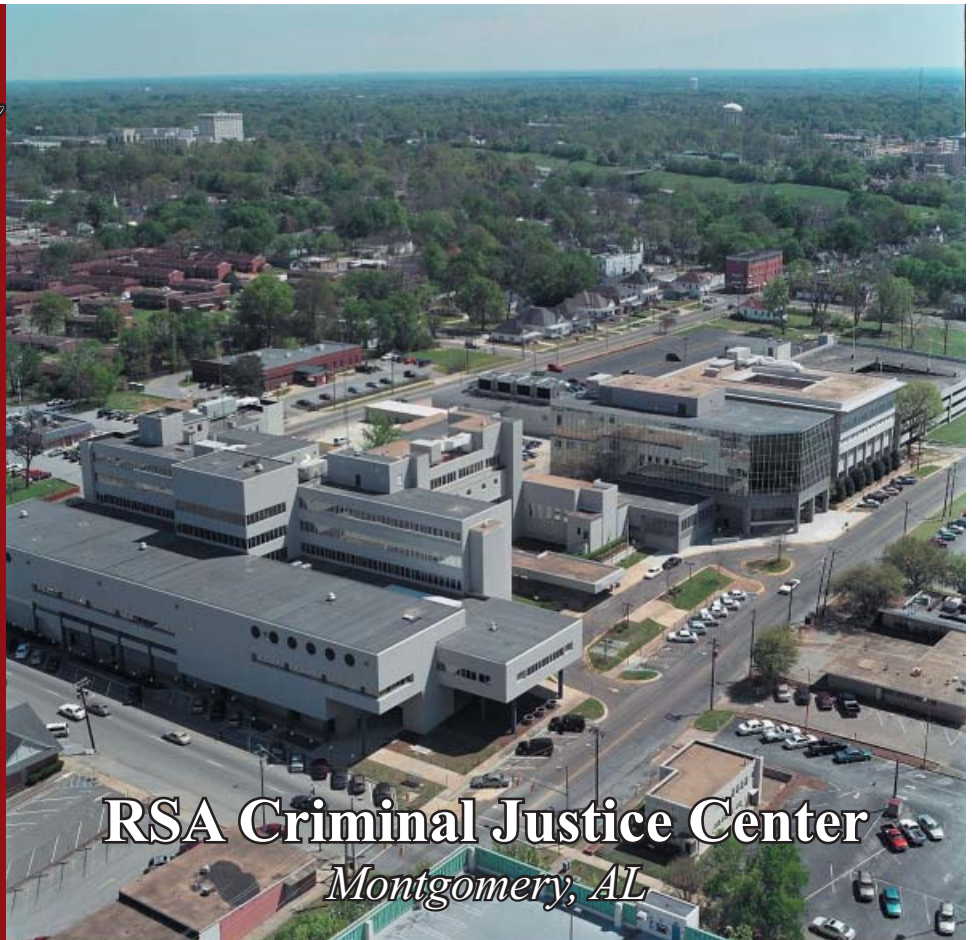
Sgt. Clay Barnes, ABI

Tpr. John Reese, ADM

Tommy Giles, Photography

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RSA Criminal Justice Center
Montgomery, AL

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**UPCOMING STATE
HOLIDAYS:**

JULY 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY

SEPTEMBER 3: LABOR DAY

OCTOBER 8: COLUMBUS DAY

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY 4TH!!!

Have a Great Story Idea?

We'd Love to Hear from You!

Send all news items,
updates, and comments to:

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